Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

OMB-01 DRC-01 /160 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3035

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 053

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX, YE

SUBJ: YEMENI FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON ALGIERS'

CONFERENCES

KUWAIT PASS ABU DHABI, DOHA, MANAMA, MUSCAT

1. SUMMARY: YARG FONMIN NU'MAN VIEWS ALGIERS'

CONFERENCES AS SUCCESS THAT LEAVES SADAT A FREE HAND TO

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NEGOTIATE IN GENEVA. NU'MAN PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED BY

CONFERENCES' SUPPORT FOR CREATION OF PALESTINIAN ENTITY. HE BELIEVES PALESTINE REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA WILL BE USEFUL; PALESTINIANS CAN DO THEIR OWN TALKING AND OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS WILL NO LONGER BE HOSTAGE TO THEIR UNREALISTIC CLAIMS. SYRIANS ARE WOBBLY AND ASAD'S PERSONAL POSITION IS PRECARIOUS. IT WOULD BE WELL FOR USG SHOW SOME SOLICITUDE TO HELP THEM STAY IN THE GAME. NU'MAN'S PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION IS SOME FORM OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER TO SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM.

- 2. AMBASSADOR SAW DEPPRIMIN/FONMIN NU'MAN EVENING NOVEMDIR 30 FOLLOWING RETURN OF YAR DELEGATION TO ALGIERS' CONFERENCES.
- 3. NU'MAN THROUGHT ALGIERS' CONFERENCES HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. THEY HAD ACHIEVED HOPED-FOR RESULT OF LEAVING SADAT A FREE HAND TO NEGOTIATE IN GENEVA. SUMMIT ENDORSEMENT OF PALESTINE ENTITY, IN FAVOR OF WHICH NU'MAN HAD SPOKEN ON THE FLOOR, INTENDED BE HELPFUL TO SADAT. WITH PALESTINIANS SPEAKING ONTHEIR OWN BEHALF IN GENEVA, OTHER ARAB LEADERS WOULD NO LONGER BE HOSTAGE TO THEIR UNREALISTICALLY EXTREME POSITIONS. IN FACE OF CALL FOR PALESTINIAN ENTITY, JORDAN'S CAPABLE ABDUL-MUN'IM RIFA'I HAD PLAYED IT COOL. AVOIDING ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE, HE HAD SIMPLY ASKED QUIETLY THAT RECORD SHOW GOJ RESERVED ITS POSITION.
- 4. NU'MAN GAVE BOUMEDIENNE A LOT OF THE CREDIT FOR SMOOTHNESS OF CONFERENCEDELIBERATIONS. BOUMEDIENNE, HE SAID, HAD SHOWN COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY WITH SADAT'S OBJECTIVE OF AN HONORABLE, FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT OBTAINED THROUGH NEGOTIATION. HE HAD WORKED CAPABLY BEHIND THE SCENES TO MAKE SURE THAT OTHER ARAB DIFFERENCES DID NOT INTERFERE WITH CENTRAL OBJECTIVE OF WINNING BROADEST SUPPORT FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION.
- 5. NU'MAN SAID HIS ONLY WORRY WAS SYRIA. SYRIAN GOVERNMENT EXPOSED AND WOBBLY. ASAD'S POSITON VULNERABLE. SYRIA HAD IN GOOD FAITH THROWN EVERYTHING IT CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD INTO THE BATTLE WITH ISRAEL ONLY TO BE CALLED OFF BY A CEASE-FIRE ON WHICH IT HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED. SINCE THE WAR, SYRIAN LOSSES HAD NOT BEEN FULLY MADE UP BY SOVIETS APPARENTLY IN BELIEF THIS WOULD KEEP SARG PLIABLE. SYRIAN REGIME MUCH MORE SENSITIVE TO IRAQI PRESSURES AND ACCUSATIONS THAN SADAT TO QADHAFI. THIS

IS IN NU'MAN'S VIEW A REAL QUESTION WHETHER PRESENT

REGIME OR ANY SYRIAN GOVERNMENT CAN STAY THE
DIFFICULT COURSE AHEAD. NU'MAN REPEATED HIS EARLIER
RECOMMENDATION (SANAA 2343) THAT USG FIND WAYS OF
BOLSTERING SYRIA'S WAVERING CONFIDENCE THAT THE GAME IS
WORTH THE CANDLE. HE SUGGESTED FOR USG CONSIDERATION A PERSONAL
MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER TO OPPOSITE NUMBER
KHADDAM TO BRING LATTER UP TO DATE ON USG'S NEWEST
THINKING, ITS EXPECTATIONS REGARDING GENEVA, ETC.

6. NU'MAN REMARKED THAT ALGIERS' CONFERENCES HAD ALSO BEEN USEFUL ON SOME PERIPHERAL ISSUES. HE AND KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER HAD JOINED IN CALLING FOR RESTORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ARAB STATES WHERE SUCH RELATIONS DID NOT EXIST. SPECIFICALLY THEY HAD IN MIND ABSENCE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN (A) SAUDI ARABIA AND ABU DHABI AND (B) PDRY AND ABU DHABI AND OMAN. ALGIERS PROVIDED FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR QUIET DISCUSSION BET-WEEN FAISAL'S INTELLIGENCE ADVISER ADHAM AND ABU DHABI FOREIGN MINISTER SUWEIDI, WITH KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE MIDDLE. LOOKING TOWARD FORMULA FOR RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FAISAL AND SHAIKH ZAYID. FURTHER PROGRESS ALSO MADE IN YAR-PUBRY RELATIONS (SEPTEL). LIBYA AND IRAQ WERE NOT MUCH MISSED BUT, OVER SAUDI GRUMBLING, SENSE OF THE MEETING WAS PUT IN THE RECORD STATING CONFERENCE WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO ANY STATE WHICH WILLING MADE CONTACT WITH IRAQ OR LIBYA TO BRING THEM INTO PICTURE AND WIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS. CRAWFORD

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